

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01262 020821Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UY, GW

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF HONORARY URUGUAYAN CONSUL
IN BERLIN

REF: BONN 10458

1. FRENCH (CHAIRMAN) POLITICAL ADVISER CALLED ON SENAT
HEAD OF CHANCELLERY HERZ JUNE 30 TO REQUEST, PER TRI-
PARTITE BONN INSTRUCTIONS (REFTEL), FULLER EXPLANATION
OF SENAT'S OBJECTIONS TO KLINGBEIL NOMINATION AS HONORARY
URUGUAYAN CONSUL IN WEST BERLIN. HERZ EXPRESSED
UNDERSTANDING THAT ALLIES SHOULD FEEL OBLIGED TO
GRANT ACCREDITATION TO NOMINEE WHO ADMITTEDLY INSPIRED
NOBODY'S CONFIDENCE BUT WHO FOR TIME BEING WAS SUBJECT
ONLY OF SUSPICIONS OF WRONG-DOING. HERZ SAID THAT HE WAS
NOT IN FACT IN POSITION TO GIVE US ASSURANCES THAT
KLINGBEIL WOULD BE CRIMINALLY PROSECUTED; HOWEVER, HE
COULD AT VERY LEAST BE EXPECTED TO GO BANKRUPT IN
SEVERAL MONTHS' TIME. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS AWARE
KLINGBEIL'S BUSINESS WAS NOT SOUND. IN SHORT, IF
KLINGBEIL WENT BANKRUPT AFTER HAVING BEEN ACCREDITED
AS HONORARY CONSUL, URUGUAY WOULD STAND TO SUFFER MORE
FROM THIS THAN EITHER ALLIES OR SENAT. OF COURSE,
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PAGE 02 USBERL 01262 020821Z

PRESENT HONORARY CONSULS WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE ONE

OF THEIR NUMBER UNDERGO DEGRADATION OF THIS KIND.

2. IN FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION WITH US POLAD JULY 1, CHIEF OF SENAT PROTOCOL URBAN SAID THAT KLINGBEIL WAS FRONT-MAN (STROHMANN) FOR ARCHITECT KRESSMANN-ZSCHACH, DIS CREDITED IN STEGLITZER KREISEL SCANDAL. URGAN SAID THAT THERE WERE ALREADY ONE OR TWO HONORARY CONSULS WHO DID NOT HAVE BEST OF REPUTATION, AND KRESSMANN HERSELF HAD T ONE POINT CONSIDERED PUTTING IN FOR APPOINTMENT; CHAMBER WISHED TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE SCANDALS THAT WOULD REFLECT ON HONORARY CONSULS AS GROUP. URBAN SAID THAT SENAT HOPED TO HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO PROVIDE ALLIES BUT VIGOROUSLY DENIED THAT POLITICS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH VIEW OF CHAMBER OR SENAT.

3. WE HAVE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT KLINGBEIL HAS REPUTATION FOR UNSAVORY BUSINESS PRACTICES, AND THAT HE IS HOVERING ON BRINK OF BANKRUPTCY. HERZ'S AND URBAN'S REMARKS TEND TO CONFIRM THESE REPORTS AND INDICATE STRONG POSSIBILITY OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS. IN MISSION VIEW, THIS CONSTITUTES SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR ALLIES TO SUPPORT SENAT'S OBJECTIONS AND TO REJECT NOMINATION THROUGH USUAL LIAISON AND PROTOCOL CHANNELS. WE SUGGEST WE WAIT A BIT, HOWEVER, TO SEE IF SENAT PROVIDES ANY ADDITIONAL USEFUL INFORMATION. SELIGMANN

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